

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 17, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 15 has been amended. Claims 63-79 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 27 and 45 have been cancelled. Claims 15-26, 28-44, and 46-79 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the explanation of the lined-through references of the returned Form 1449s. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have enclosed herewith another copy of each of the lined-through references and a new Form 1449 listing the enclosed references. Applicants kindly request the Examiner to return a copy of the signed Form 1449 with the next communication.

Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claims 14, 38, 40, 42, and 43 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 17-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,692,637. Claims 15-37, 39, 41, and 44-62 have also been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,692,637 in view of Willinger et al. (U.S. Patent 5,053,125).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. To obviate the rejections, however, a terminal disclaimer of the term extending beyond the term of U.S. Patent 6,692,637 has been filed herewith.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

The Examiner rejected claims 15-16, 19-20, 22-27, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,584,988). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claim 15 and cancelled claims 27 and 45 to advance this application to allowance.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 45. Claim 45 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,692,637. In light of the terminal disclaimer filed

herein, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 15, and dependent claims 16, 19-20, 22-26, and 44 are now in condition for allowance.

New Claims 63-79

Dependent claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as new claim 63. Claims 64-69 depend upon claim 63 and recite the same subject matter of previously presented claims 18, 21, 26, 27, 46, and 47 respectively.

Dependent claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as new claim 70. Claims 71-74 depend upon claim 70 and recite the same subject matter of previously presented claims 26, 27, 46, and 47 respectively.

Dependent claim 47 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as new claim 75. Claims 76-79 depend upon claim 75 and recite the same subject matter of previously presented claims 16, 21, 26, and 27 respectively.

In light of the terminal disclaimer filed herewith concerning dependent claims 17, 21, and 47, Applicant respectfully submit that new claims 63-79 are in condition for allowance.

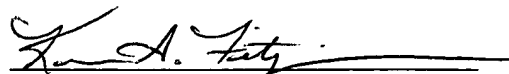
SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 15-26, 28-44, and 46-79) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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